



STATE OF INDIANA
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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 19 in Muncie

MUNCIE, Ind. (Oct. 14) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested 19 people on 23 charges around the Ball State University campus this weekend.

Excise officers were working in Muncie this weekend as part of the state Alcohol and Tobacco Commission's continuing efforts to reduce underage drinking in Indiana.

On Friday, 10 minors were arrested on 11 charges, including illegal possession of alcohol, illegal transportation of alcohol and various traffic violations. One adult was also cited for various traffic violations.

On Saturday, eight minors were arrested on 10 charges, including illegal possession of alcohol, public intoxication and resisting law enforcement in the BSU tailgating area. One 20-year-old man was taken to jail for illegal possession of alcohol, public intoxication and resisting law enforcement. He registered .16% BAC – twice the legal limit to drive a car in Indiana – on a portable breath test.

This weekend's enforcement efforts in Muncie are part of the Intensified College Enforcement, or ICE, initiative – itself part of a multi-year effort by the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to reduce underage drinking. The ICE initiative – launched February 2012 at Ball State – follows other programs by the ATC aimed at underage access to and use of alcoholic beverages.

After two years of gathering statistical data and establishing program protocols, in April 2009 the ATC embarked on a state-wide alcohol-compliance-check initiative, called the Survey for Alcohol Compliance or SAC. When the program began, nearly 40% of alcoholic-beverage outlets were willing to sell alcohol to minors. Now, only 5.5% of businesses are willing to sell alcohol to minors – a significant drop in the availability of alcohol to minors.

In January 2010, the state's mandatory server-training program was launched to ensure those selling alcoholic beverages had training in how to recognize false IDs and deal appropriately with underage or intoxicated customers. Now, all package-store clerks and alcohol servers at restaurants and bars have the necessary training to catch underage customers trying to buy alcohol.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.